NEW FOREST
RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.

ANNUAL REPORT

ON

Vital Statistics and Sanitary Condition

OF THE

New Forest Rural Sanitary District,

For the Year 1895.

SUBMITTED TO THE RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY

BY

HENRY ANDERSON SHEPPARD,

Fellow of the British Institute of Public Health.
Medical Officer of Health to the New Forest Sanitary Authority.
Medical Officer to the New Forest Union, No. 1 District.
Medical Officer to the New Forest Workhouse.

SOUTHAMPTON:
PRINTED BY ADAMS & DYER, OXFORD STREET, AND 10, BERNARD STREET.

MDCCCXCVI.

NEW FOREST
RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.

ANNUAL REPORT

ON

Vital Statistics and Sanitary Condition

OF THE

New Forest Rural Sanitary District,

For the Year 1895.

SUBMITTED TO THE RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY

BY

HENRY ANDERSON SHEPPARD,

Fellow of the British Institute of Public Health.

Medical Officer of Health to the New Forest Sanitary Authority.

Medical Officer to the New Forest Union, No. 1 District.

Medical Officer to the New Forest Workhouse.

SOUTHAMPTON:
PRINTED BY ADAMS & DYER, OXFORD STREET, AND 10, BERNARD STREET

MDCCCXCVI

SANITARY COMMITTEE.

GUARDIANS OF THE NEW FOREST UNION.
MAGISTRATES OF THE DISTRICT.

BY THE ORDER OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD, dated March 23rd, 1891, Article 18, Section 14, it is prescribed that the Medical Officer of Health shall "Prepare an Annual Report, to be made to the end of "December in each year, comprising a summary of the action taken during the "year for preventing the spread of disease, and an account of the Sanitary state "of his district generally at the end of the year. The Report shall also contain "an account of the enquiries which he has made as to conditions injurious to "health existing in his district, and of the proceedings in which he has taken "part or advised, under the PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1875, so far as such proceedings "relate to those conditions; and also on account of the supervision exercised by "by him, or on his advice, for Sanitary purposes over places and houses that the "SANITARY AUTHORITIES have power to regulate, with the nature and results of "any proceedings which may have been so required and taken in respect of the "same during the year. It shall also record the action taken by him, or on his "advice, during the year, in regard to offensive trades, and to factories and work-"shops. The Report shall also contain tabular statements (on Forms to be "supplied by the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD, or to the like effect) of the sick-"ness and mortality within the district, classified according to diseases, ages, "and localities."

New Forest Rural Sanitary Authority,

1895.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE

Chairman and Members of the Rural Sanitary Authority.

Gentlemen,

I have the honor to submit to you my Sixth Annual Report on various matters relating to the Public Health of the New Forest Rural Sanitary District, for the year ending December 31st, 1895, together with the Tables and Statistics required by the Local Government Board.

* * *

VITAL STATISTICS.

Estimated Population, 1895, 14,250. Area, 64,272 acres.

Density of Population ·22 persons per acre.

ELING.

BIRTHS.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total	Birth Rate.
1891	95	83	178	27·77
1892	76	95	171	26·47
1893	96	94	190	29·21
1894	88	84	172	26·45
1895	89	97	186	28·31

DEATHS.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Death Rate.
1891	64	60	124	19·19
1892	65	65	130	18·57
1893	62	41	103	15·87
1894	51	47	98	13·46
1895	59	51	110	16·75

LYNDHURST.

BIRTHS.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Birth Rate.
1891	58	45	103	29·17
1892	41	35	76	21·38
1893	45	49	94	26·40
1894	36	50	86	23·87
1895	38	37	75	20·77

DEATHS.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Death Rate.
1891	19	27	46	13·03
1892	27	25	52	14·63
1893	18	27	45	12·47
1894	17	22	39	10·82
1895	18	27	45	12·46

FAWLEY.

BIRTHS.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Birth Rate.
1891	55	53	108	27·21
1892	48	50	98	24·50
1893	57	59	116	28·92
1894	55	48	103	25·49
1895	56	57	113	27·76

DEATHS.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Death Rate.
1891	26	30	56	14·11
1892	37	30	67	16·75
1893	27	32	59	12·46
1894	33	30	63	16·08
1895	30	23	53	13·00

DEATHS FOR THE QUARTERS.

ELING.

	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.
First Quarter - -	30	49	34	37	38
Second ,, - -	46	32	25	23	24
Third ,, - -	26	16	23	14	22
Fourth ,, - -	22	23	31	24	26
Total - - -	124	120	103	98	110

LYNDHURST.

	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894	1895.
First Quarter - -	14	13	12	15	18
Second ,, - -	13	9	13	7	13
Third ,, - -	8	20	10	9	9
Fourth ,, - -	11	10	10	8	5
Total - - -	46	52	45	39	45

FAWLEY.

	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.
First Quarter - -	27	34	14	29	16
Second ,, - -	13	13	19	7	13
Third ,, - -	6	7	12	7	13
Fourth ,, - -	10	13	14	20	11
Total - - -	56	67	59	63	53

The total number of deaths recorded in the Sanitary District during the year 1895 amounted to 208. Of these 110 were registered in Eling, 45 in Lyndhurst, and 53 in Fawley; which gives a death rate for the whole Sanitary District of 14·59 per 1,000.

Table showing Death Rate during past five years:—

1891 - - - -	16·25 per 1000.
1892 - - - -	17·05 ,,
1893 - - - -	14·72 ,,
1894 - - - -	14·10 ,,
1895 - - - -	14·59 ,,

The Death Rate, although slightly higher than that of 1894, compares very favourably with previous years.

The total number of deaths, 208 for the whole Sanitary District, are divided as follows :—

Under 1 year	30
Between 1 and 5	14
„ 5 „ 15	9
„ 15 „ 25	9
„ 25 „ 65	52
Over 65 years	94
	208

This table shows a death rate between birth and 15 years of age of 3·71 per 1,000 ; and between 15 and 65 years of age of 4·28 per 1,000 ; and those over 65 years of age of 6·59 per 1,000

The average life of the 94 who are reported in the above Table as those dying over 65 years of age, amounted to 76 years.

The Analysis of these 200 deaths gives the following result :—

Enteric or Typhoid, 1.
Whooping Cough, 2.
Diarrhœa, 3.
Dysentery, 2.
Rheumatic Fever, 1.
Phthisis, 16.
Bronchitis and Pneumonia, 23.
Heart Disease, 21.
Influenza, 9.

Other diseases not mentioned in Table A, 130.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The total number of deaths of Infants under one year was 40. This mortality equals 80 in every 1,000 births, the general average for England and Wales for 1895 being 161 per 1,000 births. These 30 deaths were due principally to Debility from birth, Convulsions or Premature Birth during the same period.

Deaths under one year in proportion to Registered Births for five years in the New Forest Sanitary District ; and general average for England and Wales.

New Forest Sanitary District.					England and Wales.				
1891	90	per 1,000 Births or	9·	per cent.	1891	149	per 1,000 Births or	14·9	per cent.
1892	78	„ „	7·8	„	1892	142	„ „	14·8	„
1893	80	„ „	9·	„	1893	159	„ „	15·9	„
1894	110	„ „	11·	„	1894	137	„ „	13·7	„
1895	80	„ „	8·	„	1895	161	„ „	16·1	„

K². 3.

(A) Table of Deaths during the year 1895, in the Whole Sanitary District of the New Forest, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities. (*Columns for Population and Births are in Table B.*)	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.								MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																					
									1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
													FEVERS.																	
	At all Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.		Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhœa and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Influenza.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	TOTAL.
(*a.*)	(*b*)	(*c*)	(*d*)	(*e*)	(*f*)	(*g*)	(*h*)	(*i*)																						
ELING	110	19	9	6	6	25	45	Under 5 ...														4		1	5				18	28
								5 upwards						1								1		10	7	12	1		50	82
LYNDHURST ...	45	3	2	2	1	12	25	Under 5													1			1					3	5
								5 upwards															1	1	5	4	8		21	40
FAWLEY	53	8	3	1	2	15	24	Under 5 ...													1			2	2				6	11
								5 upwards																1	4	5			32	42
Totals	208	30	14	9	9	52	94	Under 5 ...													2	4		4	7					44
								5 upwards						1								1	1	12	16	21	9			164

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality. *See Note 5 on back.*

Deaths occurring outside the district among persons belonging thereto.								Under 5 ...																						
								5 upwards																						
Deaths occurring within the district among persons not belonging thereto.								Under 5 ...																						
								5 upwards																						

NOTES ON TABLES A AND B.

NOTE 1. *Medical Officers of Health of "Combined Districts" must make a separate Return for the District of each District Council.*

2. *Medical Officers of Health acting for a portion only of the District of a District Council should write, in the heading of the Table, the designation of the Division for which they act.*

3. *The words "Urban," "Rural," or "Metropolitan" must be inserted in the appropriate space in the heading, according as the District is Urban or Rural, or is within the Metropolitan Area.*

4. The "*Localities*" adopted for the purpose of these statistics should be areas of known population; such as parishes, groups of parishes, townships, or wards.

As stated at the head of the first column in each Table, *Public Institutions* should be regarded as separate localities, and the deaths in them should be separately recorded. Workhouses, Hospitals, Infirmaries, Asylums, and other establishments into which numbers of people, and especially of sick people, are received are Public Institutions for the purpose of these statistics.

5. *The deaths which have to be classified in this Table* (A), and summed up in the horizontal line of "Totals," are the whole of those *registered* as having actually occurred in the several localities comprised within the Division or District. But the registered number of deaths frequently requires correction before it can give an exact view of the mortality of a Division or District; and the two lowest horizontal lines are provided for the purpose of enabling Medical Officers of Health to indicate, to the best of their ability, what the extent of such corrections should be. Details concerning the corrective figures, *e.g.*, the Institutions that have been considered, or the particular localities to which corrections apply, may appear in the text of the report or in supplementary tables.

AREA AND POPULATION OF THE DISTRICT OR DIVISION TO WHICH THIS RETURN RELATES.

Area in Acres, 64,272.

Population (1891), 13,907.

Death-Rates	General, 14·59	per 1,000 Population, estimated to middle of 1895.
	Infant (under one year of age) 80	per 1,000 Births registered.

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables A and B, attention has been given to the notes endorsed on the Tables.

HENRY A. SHEPPARD,
Medical Officer of Health.

Dated Feb. 20th, 1896.

(B) Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1895, in the Whole Sanitary District of the New Forest, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of localities adopted for the purpose of these statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	Population at all Ages.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Heallh.													Number of such Cases Removed from their Homes in the several Localities for Treatment in Isolation Hospital.												
	Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1895.			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
									Fevers.													Fevers.								
					Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Influenza.	All other Diseases.	Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continuous.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.		
(a.)	(b)	(c.)	(d.)	(e.)																										
ELING	6,409	6,570	186	Under 5													11	NO ISOLATION HOSPITAL.												
				5 upwds.		13				3						7	80													
LYNDHURST ...	3,530	3,610	75	Under 5																										
				5 upwds.		1										7	43													
FAWLEY	3,968	4,070	113	Under 5													21													
				5 upwds.		2										2	79													
Totals ...	13,907	14,250	374	Under 5													32													
				5 upwds.		16				3						16	202													

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District.—*Yes.* Since when ?—*November 1st,* 1893. Besides the above-mentioned Diseases, insert in the columns with blank headings the names of any that are notifiable in the District. and fill the columns accordingly. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District. Mark (H) the Locality in which such Hospital is situated; and if not within the District, state where it is situated.—*No Isolation Hospital.*

NOTES ON TABLE B.

(See also Notes on back of Table A.)

Note 1. The present *Table B.* is concerned with population, births, and sickness (not with mortality) in the district or division to which the Table relates

2. As stated in the heading of Col. *(a)*, *Public Institutions* should be regarded as separate localities, and the new cases of sickness in them should be separately recorded. Workhouses, Hospitals, Infirmaries, Asylums, and other establishments into which numbers of people, and especially of sick people, are received, are Public Institutions for the purpose of these statistics.

3. *Comments on any unequal incidence of notifiable disease upon the several localities, and considerations as to the local incidence of consumption and other prevalent diseases, should be made in the text of the Report.*

BIRTHS.

The births registered in the Sanitary District during the year 1895 amount to 374, namely 183 males and 191 females, giving a birth rate of 26·31 per 1,000; each division of the District giving the following birth rate.

Eling	-	-	28·31 per 1000.
Lyndhurst	-	-	20·77 ,,
Fawley	-	-	27·76 ,,

AREA.

The Sanitary District of the New Forest Union is comprised of three Divisions, forming an area of 64,272 acres; each Division giving the following acreage.

Eling	-	-	18,457 acres.
Lyndhurst	-	-	19,987 ,,
Fawley	-	-	25,828 ,,

POPULATION.

The enumerated Population for the whole District amounted in the year 1891 to 13,907, and, calculating on the recognised principles, including the slight influx due to the establishment of any new industry in our midst, I have arrived at the conclusion that our present population amounts to 14,250.

METEOROLOGY.

By the courtesy of the Director General of the Ordnance Survey, I am able to furnish an abstract from the Meteorological Register kept at the Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton, for the year 1895; it will therefore give one a good idea of the Meteorological aspect of the past year. This table shows the year to have been not quite so wet as the preceding year, when the total rainfall amounted to 34·914 inches; during 1895 the total rainfall amounted to 28·305 inches, being a decrease of 6·609 inches on 1894. November being the wettest month of the year with 5·314 inches; July coming next with 3·859 inches; then January with 3·527 inches; and October with 3·083 inches, thus showing that during these four months we obtained more than half the rainfall for the year, viz.: 15·783 inches.

Barometrical Changes.—The average mean for the year was 29,942, the highest reading being on May 2nd, viz.: 30,624, whilst the lowest was registered on January 14th, 28,894.

Temperature.—The highest maximum temperature recorded was 85·0 on June 9th; and the lowest minimum temperature 14·0 on February 9th. The coldest months of the year were February, January, December, and March, when the approximate mean temperature for these months were 30·7 degrees, 34·8 degrees, 41·8 degrees, and 44·0 degrees respectively.

Abstract from the Meteorological Register, kept at the Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton, during the year 1895.

Month.	Barometer Corrected and Reduced to 32° at Mean Sea Level.						Temperature.									Rainfall.				Recorded Sunshine.		
	Mean at		Maximum Reading.	Date.	Minimum Reading.	Date.	Mean at		Mean.		Approximate Mean.	Highest Maximum.	Date.	Lowest Minimum.	Date.	Total in Inches.	Greatest quantity in 24 hours.	Date.	No. of days on which ·01 or more fell.	Total No. of Hours.	Maximum No. of Hours.	Date.
	9 a.m.	9 p.m.					9 a.m.	9 a.m.	Max. in Air.	Min. in Air.												
	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.		Inches.		Deg.	Deg	Deg.	Deg.	Deg.	Deg.		Deg.			Inch's					
January	29·718	29·722	30·455	30	28·894	14	33·6	33·7	39·8	29·9	34·8	52·5	20	19·1	11	3·527	0·998 *	12	15	71·4	6·8	28
February	30·102	30·088	30·509	17	29·576	11	27·7	29·0	37·5	23·9	30·7	49·2	23	14·0	7	0·120	0·108	24	2	109·4	8·2	28
March	29·770	29·777	30·441	15	28·936	28	42·0	41·6	51·4	36·7	44·0	65·8	21	25·8	4	2·040	0·480	26	14	120·8	8·1	4-18
April	29·921	29·930	30·403	12	29·397	6	49·2	46·7	56·8	41·9	49·3	65·6	19	30·0	1	2·617	0·818	24	13	132·3	12·7	14
May	30·101	30·088	30·624	2	29·634	18	60·6	54·6	67·5	46·6	57·0	79·3	13	36·1	2	0·313	0·200	30	4	271·8	13·5	8-10
June	30·097	30·085	30·460	24	29·658	18	64·3	59·2	72·5	50·6	61·5	85·0	9	41·0	16	1·927	0·807	13	9	234·4	14·9	15
July	29·897	29·924	30·281	6	29·447	20	63·9	59·7	70·3	54·2	62·2	77·0	7	48·0	5	3·859	0·700	27	15	196·3	13·3	7-8
August	29·946	29·944	30·329	25	29·386	3	65·0	59·3	71·0	54·7	62·8	78·5	19	45·5	25	2·691	0·430	6	15	235·4	12·4	24
September	30·171	30·149	30·389	21	29·817	10	64·7	59·6	74·5	52·7	63·6	83·2	7	43·0	22	0·286	0·100	24	5	243·1	11·3	13
October	29·868	29·887	30·536	17	29·141	8	47·9	46·3	56·2	40·2	48·2	67·5	1	25·8	28	3·083	0·637	8	15	108·9	8·2	4
November	29·895	29·889	30·445	1	29·228	12	48·2	48·7	54·3	43·5	48·9	62·5	16	32·0	18	5·314	0·950	15	21	52·5	7·0	13
December	29·830	29·821	30·413	27	29·116	16	40·9	41·7	46·7	36·9	41·8	56·2	5	27·4	11	2·528	0·583	12	21	33·9	5·6	8
For the Year ...	29·943	29·942	30·624	May 2	28·894	Jan. 14	50·7	48·3	58·2	42·6	50·4	85·0	June 9	14·0	Feb 7	28·305	0·998	Jan. 12	149	1810·2	14·9	June 15

* Snow and Rain.

GENERAL GEOLOGICAL CHARACTER OF THE NEW FOREST.

The geology of the District and the New Forest in general is composed throughout of the middle-eocene, the Osborne and Headon Beds capping the central portion with their fluvio-marine formations. The Upper Bagshot develops itself below them, and is succeeded by the Barton clays, so well exposed on the coast, and finally by the Bracklesham Beds, which crop out in the valley of Canterton, tending in a south-easterly direction to Dibden.

A coast selection will give one a general statigraphical idea of the whole of the New Forest.

On the surface we find ferruginous flint gravel interstratified with sand varying from a few feet to twenty feet, then light blue marl running into sand, beneath this a ligneous bed, then follows a bluish marl running into shades of light grey, caused by the broken shelly matter it contains, then a second ligneous bed; under this we find green marl, limestone, lignite, a second layer of green marl, grey sand, the lower portion of which teems with fish-scales, teeth, crocodile plates, ophidian vertebræ, seed vessels, and other vegetable matter. Underneath this is tough brown clay, corpolite bed, sand bed, light blue marl, grey sand and leaf bed. A general summary therefore of the geological formation of the New Forest would consist of—

(1) Gravel (various).
(2) Marl (blue and green).
(3) Ligneous.
(4) Limestone.
(5) Lignite.
(6) Sand (various coloured).

DISPOSAL OF SEWAGE IN RURAL AREAS.

With regard to the disposal of sewage in rural areas, and the notification and isolation of infectious cases, I have nothing to add to my remarks of last year; but would again submit it in its entirety for the favourable consideration of your Board.

This is a most important subject for the consideration of the Board, as at present our method of disposal of sewage in the larger part of the sanitary district is of the most primitive and unhygienic form.

The subject resolves itself into two alternatives (1) Sewers, or (2) some efficient dry method. The first, I think, for a rural district, is unsuitable as well as unattainable, as we are for the most part dealing with scattered groups of cottages, with here and there an irregular street, with no definite water supply, and with innumerable natural obstacles to drainage of an artificial nature; from these points alone I think we may very reasonably say that a system of sewerage is about the last thing to fall back upon under these conditions; and that leads one to the point that some efficient dry method is what we must aim at.

Let me here point out the advantages of a dry method of sewage removal.

(1) The expense is less than a water carriage system.

(2) If properly managed it is perfect from a hygienic point of view, there being no poisonous sewer gas developed, and no pollution of streams, and

(3) It is a means of procuring a most valuable manure.

It is necessary in the first place to abolish our present pit system, and substitute the pail-closets system. The construction of the privy may be based upon the old style, but in addition shall have a cemented ground floor at least three inches above the surface of the ground adjoining; it shall be provided with a sufficient opening for ventilation, and shall be so constructed as to admit of a removable receptacle being fitted beneath the seat, with a hole in the back of the privy for its removal.

With such a closet many deoderants could be employed, such as dry earth, sawdust, ashes, or crushed peat. Of these the best in every way is dried peat-moss, owing to its remarkable power of absorbing liquids; its power of fixing and retaining ammonia; its deodorising power; and its remarkable compressibility, which renders its transport and storage a matter of ease. The pails may be of galvanized iron or simply of wood; when made of wood the pails should be tarred externally and internally frequently. The pails should be emptied at least once a week, the contents being placed in a hole in the ground and covered over with earth, and subsequently used for manure. By the adoption of such a system many, if not all, of the objections to our present system would be abolished, and the district rendered more healthy.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

This Act came into force on November 1st, 1893, and between that date and December 31st, 1893, there were received two notifications of Diphtheria at Fawley, and one of Typhoid at Bartley, and between January 1st, 1894, and December 31st, 1894, 52 notifications of notifiable diseases.

By timely notification the cases can receive immediate attention in a Sanitary point of view; and with due precautions with regard to isolation, disinfection, and fumigation, there should be little or no spread of any of the Zymotic Diseases. Should, however, the initial symptoms develope its worst features before notification, a great amount of mischief may have been done to the inhabitants, by affording a means of disseminating the germ throughout the District.

I must, therefore, impress upon the resident Medical Gentlemen within the Sanitary District the importance of reporting at the earliest stage any of the notifiable diseases.

At the same time, I might mention that it should be the duty of all Schoolmasters, and School Attendance Officers within the District, to report to the Medical Officer of Health any appreciable decrease in the daily school attendance, as it frequently happens that many children are kept at home by their parents for what they consider a slight illness, but which in reality may be a mild form of one of the Zymotic Diseases, and, as such, may be conveyed in its most severe form to the remaining scholars through the medium of the brothers or sisters of the patient.

The more promptly these cases are reported to the Medical Officer of Health, the better will be the prospects of checking such diseases, and by keeping away from school the children of infected households the foci of infection will be limited, and the less will be the necessity for closing schools.

ISOLATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

At the present time we have no means of fairly coping with any epidemic through the want of an Isolation Hospital, together with the difficulty we always experience in finding temporary accommodation for the infected patients. I would, therefore, urge the Sanitary Authority to give this subject their most serious consideration.

As the Sanitary Division is so extensive, comprising, as it does, an area of 64,272 acres, it would be a difficult matter to find a suitable and at the same time a central site for the erection of a permanent Hospital; and should such a site be found, another difficulty would exist in the conveyance of patients from the outlying districts to the Hospital. Some patients, probably, would be compelled to travel a considerable number of miles to reach the Hospital.

The only solution to this difficult problem at which I can satisfactorily arrive is, for the Sanitary Authority to purchase one or two portable Hospitals, which could within a few hours from notification be erected within a reasonable distance from the locality in which an epidemic is likely to take place. Such a Hospital is now being constructed by the Rev. E. L. Berthon, of Romsey, Hants, as an outcome of his well-known

" Berthon " boats, the roof being made in the same manner, with timbers radiating from the apex, which extend two plies of canvas made waterproof with flexible paint. The walls are composed of two thicknesses of matchboard, with glass windows in each segment. The floor is made in segments of board, each segment being easily withdrawn from the outside, for the purpose of cleaning without the necessity of disturbing the patients. The ventilation is well looked after, as fresh air can enter between the double sides, and passing upwards between the two skins of the roof, escapes by ventilators at the apex. In the winter a slow-combustion stove can be placed in the centre of the Hospital, with a stove-pipe projecting through the apex of the roof, and can be so arranged that it shall nowhere touch any wood or canvass. In addition to this a small hut could be attached to the Hospital, and built on the same principle for the accommodation of the nurse.

With such a Hospital to fall back upon in times when an epidemic becomes imminent, would be the only means of thoroughly mastering and limiting the disease. The general administration of such a Hospital could always be left in the hands of the resident medical men ; and the whole sanitary arrangements to the Medical Officer of Health. Each medical man could then attend to his own patients, and the Medical Officer of Health to the Sanitary Arrangements.

The above remarks were made by me in my last year's report, and as no action has been taken in the matter, beyond condemning the suggestion as being impracticable, I must still point out to the Board the absolute necessity of providing isolated accommodation for infected patients during an Epidemic, and the only way, besides the plan suggested above, is to obtain land and build a permanent hospital in the most central part of the district.

At the present time the Sanitary Authority of Southampton have promised to accommodate us by taking into their Hospital Ship, any of our infectious cases; but it must be remembered that at the present time it is not sufficient for their own wants, therefore should their hospitals be full when wanted by this District, it necessarily follows that our cases would be refused; again a definite weekly payment of about £2 2s. would be required from the District for each person using the Hospital, which in a very short time would amount to a considerable sum, presuming we had many such outbreaks as the Diphtheria at Hythe during 1894, and such being the case it would be wiser and cheaper for the District to build its own Isolation Hospital.

ZYMOTIC AND OTHER DISEASES.

I will now give a brief history of Diseases Zymotic and otherwise, that have occurred in the Sanitary District during the past year.

MEASLES.

This disease existed as a mild Epidemic during the Spring; but to so small an extent as to need but little comment on my part. There were no deaths from this disease.

TYPHOID FEVER.

Three cases of Typhoid Fever came to my knowledge during the year, one of which was imported from France, thus leaving two as belonging properly to the Sanitary area.

The other cases belong to the district proper, and were traced to the water supply, which was obtained from a polluted source During the early part of 1895 we experienced exceedingly cold weather, the temperature being so low that the pipes of the South Hants Water Company were burst in many places, which necessitated their removal, and the placing down of new pipes. The extent of the injury was so great that for six weeks the water supply of Totton was carried on by means of water tanks brought from some considerable distance. The supply was so limited that many of the residents used the water from wells which had been for some considerable time in disuse, and it is little wonder under the above circumstances that Typhoid made its appearance, though, fortunately, to a very limited extent.

The mortality from this disease, 1.

SCARLET FEVER.

Sporadic cases of this disease occurred at Marchwood, Totton, Bramshaw, Beaulieu, Bartley, Eling, and Woodlands, in all 16 cases. These 16 cases were reported during March, April, July, August and December, and in each case the house was visited as soon as practicable, and full precautions given to the parents as to isolation, disinfection, and the general conduct of the remaining portion of the family. In all cases the schools situated in the above localities were visited, the school children inspected, and directions left with the Schoolmaster to report any falling off in the school attendance. The precautions taken were no doubt the means of preventing an epidemic in the several localities mentioned.

There was no mortality from this disease.

WHOOPING COUGH.

During the early part of the year this disease existed to a slight extent in Lyndhurst and Fawley, resulting in the death of two children, one at each place. Precautionary measures were taken by the medical men attending these cases to prevent its spread, and proved eminently successful.

Mortality from this disease, 2.

DIARRHŒA.

During the month of August, many cases of Diarrhœa were brought under my notice; some of which were of so serious a character as to arouse a considerable amount of anxiety among the inhabitants of the district, more especially as the inhabitants of the adjoining parish of South Stoneham were then suffering from an epidemic of Dysentery. I instituted an enquiry into the cause of this malady, and finally came to the conclusion that it was owing in a large measure to the excessive ingestion of over ripe fruit, combined with the previous dryness of the season.

The rainfall during the summer, as will be seen by a reference to the Meteorological Table, page 11, was remarkably scanty; and under these circumstances the ground soil, in rural areas especially, became overloaded with effete organic material. Any subsequent rainfall would have the effect of washing this effete matter into unprotected wells, thereby polluting their supply and favouring the production of Diarrhœa, Dysentery, or Typhoid.

As many of the inhabitants derive their water supply from the sources in question, I issued a general order that all water used for drinking purposes should be boiled before its consumption.

The mortality from this disease was five.

DIPHTHERIA.

It is most gratifying for me to be able to report a total absence of this dreaded disease from the Hythe and Bramshaw divisions of the district during the past year, where such havoc was made during the early part of 1894. I have, however, to report three cases of a mild nature which occurred in Totton, and all in the same house. The first was imported from Aldershot, and the other two cases occurred some considerable time after.

The water was examined and found pure and wholesome, and the drains after a thorough investigation by means of the smoke test, were found perfect, so it is only logical to conclude that the other cases were due to the presence of the diphtheritic germs which had remained latent from the former case, and had resisted the action of the most powerful disinfectants known to Sanitary science.

There was no mortality from this disease.

MORTALITY FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.
Measles	6	0	3	1	0
Whooping Cough	5	5	0	5	2
Diarrhœa	1	2	1	1	5
Typhoid	0	0	4	1	1
Small Pox	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlatina	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	3	1	15	0
Croup	0	1	1	1	0
Typhus	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0	0	0
Total	12	11	10	24	8

The mortality from Zymotic Diseases during 1895 amounts to 1·56 per 1,000 of the estimated population, being a decrease of 1·13 on 1894. The decrease must be looked upon as a decided proof of the good results of notification.

DISEASES OF THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM.

BRONCHITIS, PNEUMONIA, BRONCHO-PNEUMONIA, PLEURISY, AND PHTHISIS.

Under this heading are recorded, for the whole Division, 45 deaths, out of which 16 are due from Phthisis. Respiratory Diseases are therefore responsible for more than a fifth of the total deaths. This is no doubt due to the poverty which always exists to a great extent in all Rural Districts. Although the atmosphere may be purer than in towns, and the general surroundings in a more healthy condition, still the want of nourishing food, and a sufficiency of warm clothing, together with, in many cases, great exposure, must materially assist in swelling the death rate from chest affections.

Mortality 2·73 per 1,000 from Respiratory Diseases.

DISEASES OF THE CIRCULATORY SYSTEM.

I have nothing special to mention in connection with this class of disease, beyond the fact that 21 deaths are attributed to heart mischief ; this includes those from Cerebral Apoplexy.

Mortality from Heart Disease 1·47 per 1,000.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply is the same as that reported in 1894. In the majority of cases throughout the District the water supply is obtained by surface wells ; the quality of the water so obtained being, in many cases, very good ; in others, good, but peaty ; and in others brackish. During the past year I have been compelled to condemn many of these wells, owing to soakage from neighbouring privies, pig-pens, and cow-yards, and thus rendering the water dangerous to the consumer.

In parts of the Division the South Hants water is laid on, and in all new erections within the power of the above Company it is compulsory on the part of the builders to adopt this water supply.

The water on analysis is of extreme purity, excellent character, and the supply abundant.

I am pleased to state that a pure water supply for Lyndhurst is now nearly an accomplished fact. The South Hants Company obtained power to lay their mains as far as Lyndhurst, and, at the present, have nearly completed the work. Lyndhurst will therefore, in a very short time be supplied with a constant supply of pure and wholesome water.

WATER ANALYSIS.

During the year 1895 I have examined 56 samples of drinking water, by the Albuminoid Ammonia process, and in nine cases I have had to condemn the water as being unfit for drinking purposes, and order a fresh supply to be obtained. In all these cases a fresh supply has been obtained at a reasonable distance. The remaining 47 samples were good and wholesome.

COUNTY OF HANTS.

Summary of Work done through the Sanitary Inspector in the Rural Sanitary District of the New Forest, during the year ending 31st December, 1895.

	Total No. for Year.		Total No. for Year.
Complaints received - -	49	Houses closed - - -	2
Cottages inspected - - -	70	Houses erected or re-built, for which "Certificates" were applied for - - -	2
Lodging-houses inspected - -	1	"Certificates" granted - -	2
Slaughter-houses inspected -	7	"Certificates" deferred - -	—
Bake-houses inspected - -	4	Wells sunk or improved supplies of water afforded - -	8
Dairies and Milk-shops inspected	7	Wells cleansed or repaired - -	5
Cowsheds inspected - - -	5	Wells closed - - - -	—
Workshops inspected - - -	6	Defective pumps repaired, or new pumps erected to existing wells - - - -	—
Filthy houses cleansed, sec. 46 Public Health Act, 1875 -	—		
Houses disinfected - - -	12		
Overcrowding abated - -	1		
Houses placed in habitable repair	4		

I am of opinion that among the working classes there is more decided appreciation of the usefulness of Sanitary work ; this is the more clearly shown by their greater readiness to attend to the wishes of the Inspector.

COUNTY OF WILTS.

Summary of Work done through the Sanitary Inspector in the Rural Sanitary District of the New Forest, during the year ending December 31st, 1895.

	Total No. for Year.
Complaints received - - -	5
Cottages inspected - - -	3
Lodging-houses inspected - -	—
Slaughter-houses inspected -	—
Bake-houses inspected - -	—
Dairies and Milk-shops inspected	2
Cowsheds inspected - -	2
Workshops inspected - -	1
Filthy houses cleansed, sec. 46 Public Health Act, 1875 -	—
Houses disinfected - - -	—
Overcrowding abated - -	—
Houses placed in habitable repair	—

	Total No. for Year.
Houses closed - - -	—
Houses erected or re-built, for which "Certificates" were applied for - - -	1
"Certificates" granted - -	1
"Certificates" deferred - -	—
Wells sunk or improved supplies of water afforded - -	2
Wells cleansed or repaired -	—
Wells closed - - - -	—
Defective pumps repaired or new pumps erected to existing wells - - - -	—

DRAINAGE.

There is no special system of drainage throughout the Division, the dead-well and open cesspit being the most frequently adopted, and with proper supervision works fairly well. I should however like to see adopted the dry system, as suggested in a previous portion of this Report.

In concluding this Report I wish to thank the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Allen, for the able and ever-willing manner in which he carried out his duties in connection with the infectious diseases, and other Sanitary matters contained in the Report.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HENRY ANDERSON SHEPPARD.

SOUTHAMPTON:
Printed by Adams & Dyer, Publishers, &c.
10, Bernard Street.